

Filed for intro on 03/27/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 565

By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce for 20 years of dedicated service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those exemplary organizations that are celebrating milestones in their venerable history; and

WHEREAS, the members of these estimable organizations have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) is one such outstanding organization which has proficiently served the needs of its community for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, through prodigious service, the BACC and its members have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this state and its local economies; and

WHEREAS, the BACC traces its roots to July of 1978, when 37 people formed the Bartlett Business Association; the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce stemmed from the BBA in November of 1979 and installed its first officers four months later with Keith McDonald serving as the first president of the organization; and

WHEREAS, at first, the club and the area it serves had a difficult time determining the purpose and function of the BACC; when the second and current president, Suzanne Griffith, was asked almost 20 years ago, "What does a chamber of commerce do?," she replied that it deals with tourism; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the BACC has dealt with much more than tourism. The organization delves into education, business, sports, and other service organizations—all to the benefit of the Bartlett community; and

WHEREAS, constantly lobbying and laboring toward the betterment of Bartlett, the BACC always works with the goal of putting Bartlett on a pedestal; and

WHEREAS, to increase its industrial and commercial growth, the 100-acre Bartlett Corporate Park was built, and all of it was sold within three years of its opening. The first businesses to open in the corporate park was Smith and Nephew, and the Japanese firms, Brother Industries and Brother International Corporation, soon followed. Brimhall Foods and Kele and Associates are two businesses located in the park that were formed by local people; and

WHEREAS, with the success of industry and commercial recruitment during the 1980s, the Chamber is presently focusing on retail recruitment in the new century to fill the Bartlett Station area currently under renovation; and

WHEREAS, the organization has used the full extent of its power over the past 20 years to enable Bartlett to grow into the tenth largest city in the state, such as spearheading the Bartlett Business Expo, the Education Foundation, Leadership Bartlett, and Youth Leadership Bartlett; organizing the Chamber after hours; holding monthly Chamber meetings and small business roundtables; implementing the Bartlett Job Fair; and much more; and

WHEREAS, as the city of Bartlett grows, so has the Chamber of Commerce that has been instrumental in its prosperity. Since its implementation twenty years ago, the BACC has grown from its 37 original members to more than 400 members with a rapidly growing number of members coming from outside of the Bartlett area; and

WHEREAS, due to its increasing membership, the Chamber's full-time staff has grown from one full-time and one part-time employee to a staff of four full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce offers a wide variety of programs designed to meet the needs of the business community of Bartlett, from ambassadors to industry to education, and includes the Industry Council, the Retail Council, the Expo Committee, the Education Council, the Stagecoach Shootout Steering Committee, the Golf Tournament Committee, the Ambassador's Club, and the Publicity Committee; and

WHEREAS, the BACC's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to the members' reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and the uncommon ability to appeal to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the BACC is a member of the West Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executive Association (WTCCE) and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executive Association; BACC President, Suzanne Griffith, has rendered admirable service as a past president of both organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce has received the prestigious and coveted Governor's Three Star Award for the past 16 years, allowing the club the opportunity to evaluate itself every year and continually improve upon itself in order to better serve the community; and

WHEREAS, the BACC is a solid partner and a consistent and generous supporter of Tennessee's economic, educational, and charitable programs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its exemplary tenure as an influential force for growth and prosperity in Bartlett, the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce has distinguished itself as a public-spirited organization of the highest order and an exceptional asset to the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate the members of the Bartlett Area Chamber of

Commerce on the occasion of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and extend to them our thanks and gratitude for their many contributions to the growth and prosperity of the greater Bartlett community and this great state, along with our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.